

## MINUTES

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan

April 12, 2001  
10:00 a.m.

Present: Mr. Arthur E. Ellis, Chairman  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President  
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President  
Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., Secretary  
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Treasurer  
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate  
Mr. John C. Austin  
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer  
Mrs. Sharon A. Wise  
Mr. Scott Jenkins, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ellis called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m.

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Approval of Record of Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 3, 2001 - added to agenda
- B. Update on Proposed Administrative Rules for Special Education - added to agenda
- C. Report of the Superintendent - Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs - added to agenda
- D. Report of the Superintendent - Personnel Development Grants for Serving Students with Autism - 2000-2001 - Subgrant 1 - added to agenda
- E. Report of the Superintendent - 1999-2000 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Increase Existing Awards to Current Subgrantees - added to agenda

- F. Report of the Superintendent - 2000-2001 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Increase Existing Awards to Current Subgrantees - added to agenda
- G. Report from State Board of Education Subcommittee to Review By-Laws - removed from agenda

**Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

III. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Report on Consent Agenda
- B. Revised - Adoption of Resolutions Commending Challenger Elementary School, Morse Elementary School, and Springview Elementary as Title I Distinguished Schools
- C. Revised Page 1, Attachment A - Report of the Superintendent - Report on the Financial Status of Michigan School Districts for 1999-2000

IV. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated April 12, 2001, from Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board regarding Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T
- B. Memorandum dated April 12, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board regarding Information on the 2001-02 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Grant Recipient
- C. Memorandum dated April 12, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board regarding Report on Out-of-State Travel Costs
- D. Memorandum dated April 12, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board regarding Information on Department of Education Programs Supporting State Board of Education Policies on Safe Schools
- E. Memorandum dated April 12, 2001, from Mr. Ellis to the Board regarding Information on the Office of Safe Schools

V. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, introduced the members of the State Board of Education and guests attending the meeting.

VI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Special Meeting of February 23, 2001
- B. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of March 15, 2001
- C. Approval of Record of Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 3, 2001

**Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education approve: (1) State Board of Education minutes of special meeting of February 23, 2001; (2) State Board of Education minutes of meeting of March 15, 2001; and (3) record of the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 3, 2001.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Presentation of Stella Gikas Professional Support Staff Excellence Award

In 1991, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of the Stella Gikas Secretarial Award, recently renamed the “Stella Gikas Professional Support Staff Excellence Award,” to be given annually to an outstanding support person in the Department of Education. The award is given for providing leadership to others, outstanding service to education, dedication to excellence, and maintaining the highest professional standards.

A subcommittee comprising of Mrs. Straus; Mr. Austin; Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education; Ms. Terry Wardell, Director, Office of Human Resources; Ms. Jean Shane, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; and Ms. Susan Koenigsknecht, Executive Secretary, Office of Financial Management and Administrative Services and the 2000 Stella Gikas Professional Support Staff Excellence Award recipient, met to review the nominations received for the 2001 award.

Ms. Marilyn “Mertz” Schneider, Secretary in the Office of School Excellence, was awarded the 2001 Stella Gikas Professional Support Staff Excellence Award. Ms. Schneider was nominated by several people who believe that she is the model of support, initiates and organizes new ways of

solving organizational problems, provides the kind of professional service that customers want and deserve, maintains a consistently high dedication to excellence, and goes above and beyond the call of duty to help both co-workers and customers.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN CHRONICALLY UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS

Mrs. Straus introduced Dr. Kevin Hollenbeck, Senior Economist and Publications Director, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research; President, Portage Public Schools Board of Education; and Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Association of School Boards. She noted that his presentation continued the series of presentations and discussions regarding how to meaningfully and substantially improve academic performance in chronically low performing schools.

Dr. Hollenbeck provided information, including a visual presentation, and responded to questions from the Board regarding academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools. A copy of Dr. Hollenbeck's initial comments and the slide presentation were distributed to the Board and his initial comments are attached as Exhibit A.

In response to Board members, Dr. Hollenbeck said that he is in favor of annual student testing, but he would not recommend replacing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests. He said annual testing would provide a better opportunity for consistent tracking of student progress each year as opposed to the MEAP which occurs every three years and may not include the same students.

Dr. Hollenbeck said the U.S. economy will continue to flourish under the current education system, and he believes Michigan is in a state of experimentation with charter schools. He said if he were Czar he would focus on a model of more monitoring from the Department of Education, review data, and publicize the results as opposed to trying testable markets.

No action was taken on this item.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 1:11 p.m.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Ms. Linda Myers, Michigan Education Association, 1216 Kendale Boulevard, East Lansing, Michigan 48826. Ms. Myers offered comments regarding the proposed changes to the special education rules and the accreditation process as reported in the newspapers.

- B. Mr. Ray Telman, Executive Director, Middle Cities Education Association, 2199 Jolly Road, Suite 100, Okemos, Michigan 48864. Mr. Telman offer comments regarding the proposed changes of the special education rules and the accreditation process.

Mrs. Straus said Mr. Telman mentioned that the proposed Michigan Department of Education/Michigan Educational Assessment Program measures for accreditation do not include the ten standards of accreditation approved by the Board. She suggested that staff provide information on how the process is implementing the ten standards item by item.

- C. Mr. Tom Van Hoven, 1417 Gerry Drive, Jackson, Michigan 49202. Mr. Van Hoven offered comments regarding the proposed changes to the special education rules.
- D. Ms. Mary T. Wood, 2753 Santa Ana, Warren, Michigan 48093. Ms. Wood offered comments regarding public school academies and the free lunch program, the Detroit News School Report Card, and charter school oversight authority.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- D. Approval of Agreement Between State Board of Education and Thomas D. Watkins, Superintendent of Public Instruction
- E. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Arthur E. Ellis
- G. Adoption of Resolutions Commending Challenger Elementary School, Morse Elementary School, and Springview Elementary School as Title I Distinguished Schools

**Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows.**

- D. approve the agreement attached to the memorandum dated April 4, 2001, from Kathleen N. Straus, between the Michigan State Board of Education and Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.;**
- F. adopt the resolution attached to the Administrative Secretary's memorandum dated April 6, 2001 honoring Arthur E. Ellis;**
- G. adopt the resolutions attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated April 12, 2001 commending Challenger Elementary School and Springview Elementary School, and the revised resolution honoring**

**Morse Elementary School as Title I Distinguished Schools.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

The resolutions are attached as Exhibits B, C, D, and E respectively.

**XII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- H. Human Resources Report
- I. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers
- J. Report on the Financial Status of Michigan School Districts for 1999-2000
- K. Report on Approval of 2001-2004 Intermediate School District Plans for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- L. Report on Property Transfers
- Z. Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs
- M. 2000-2001 State Discretionary Projects, Part B
- N. Personnel Development Grants for Serving Students with Autism - Subgrant 2, Competency Identification
- O. Personnel Development Grant for Serving Students with Autism - Subgrant 3, Assistance Teams and Collaborative Sites
- P. Personnel Development Grant for Teacher Certification to Serve Students with Autism
- Q. 2000-2001 Goals 2000 Cycle 12
- R. 2000-2001 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Pre-Operational Grants
- S. 2001-2002 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Pre-Operational Grants
- T. 2000-2001 Federally-Funded Child Care and Development Fund Grants for School-Age Child Care - Additional Awards
- U. Competitive Grant for Full-Day Services in Michigan School Readiness and Head Start Program

- V. 2000-2001 Competitive Mini-Grant to Revise the High School HIV/STD Prevention Program
- W. Personnel Development Grants for Serving Students with Autism - 2000 - 2001 Subgrant 1
- X. 1999-2000 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Increase Existing Awards to Current Subgrantees
- Y. 2000-2001 U. S. Department of Education, Charter School Grant Program - Increase Existing Awards to Current Subgrantees

Mrs. Straus said Item Z, Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs, lists the new or revised teacher education programs approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She said she wanted to make it clear that the State Board of Education still retains the approval authority for teacher preparation program standards.

Board members asked that staff provide information on how teacher preparation programs are meeting the state standards. Mrs. Gire said it is imperative for teacher preparation programs to focus on creative thinking, deductive reasoning, higher order thinking skills, and other aspects of the state standards so that their students will be prepared to enter the classroom and teach to the Standards and Benchmarks. She requested that the Minutes show this request, and that the report should also indicate the Board's policies and standards as well as how the educational institutions are moving toward compliance.

Mrs. Straus said staff recently attempted to pull together the Board's policies from the last five years, however, the scope of the project was quickly realized. She said it may make more sense to group the policies either by issue or by subject matter so that the Board may get a better sense of how and if they are being implemented.

Mr. Warren said he thinks it is imperative to establish a formal reporting mechanism for the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other Department heads that implement the policies. He said he feels it is appropriate for the Board to focus on five or six big policy issues, and that a summary analysis of administrative functions for the new superintendent will provide valuable insight.

### XIII. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM, GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS, AND SAMPLE CURRICULUM AND PLANS FOR EDUCATION (SCoPE)

Mr. Ellis introduced Mr. Mark Murray, State Treasurer, and on behalf of the Board

congratulated him on his recent appointment as President of Grand Valley State University.

During his presentation, Mr. Murray provided information on: (1) Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP); (2) Merit Award Program and Board; (3) schools of choice; (4) Governor's Cup; (5) Golden Apple Award; and (6) Sample Curriculum and Plans for Education (SCoPE).

Mr. Murray said he has served as Mr. Ellis' representative on the Detroit Reform Board, and will continue in that capacity until July 2001 per a conversation with Mr. Tom Watkins, the incoming Superintendent. He said through Mr. Kenneth Burnley's guidance, school principals in the Detroit Public School system are now discussing grade point averages, and MEAP scores, and how to improve them.

There was further discussion regarding the MEAP tests, and returning test scores to schools in a timely fashion. Mr. Murray said that in the past the schedule for returning scores has been delayed because some school districts do not submit their tests in a timely manner. He said the Department of Treasury plans to establish a standard for promptness for turning in materials which would guarantee a return of materials if tests are received by a certain date.

Mr. Murray said he believes that as parents and students make choices to go to other school settings, an environment of measured change in school performance will emerge.

No action was taken on this item.

XIV. REPORT FROM STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW BY-LAWS

This item was removed from the agenda.

XV. REPORT ON OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR THE MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

XVI. UPDATE ON PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, provided an overview of policy and compliance issues and events which occurred since June 1997. She said the Federal law was re-authorized four days after she was appointed as Director of Office of Special Education and



Early Intervention Services in 1997, and Michigan was immediately out of compliance at that time. She said the State Board of Education adopted: (1) Goals for Special Education in Michigan in April 1998; (2) Policies for Transition and Adult Services in April 1999; and (3) a Policy Framework for Special Education in Michigan in December 1999. She said the Department of Education submitted the "Required Self-Assessment Report" to the United State Department of Education in April 2000.

A copy of the "Developmental Sequence for Initiating Systemic Change: Policy and Compliance Issues and Events," and "Alignment of Policies Approved by the State Board of Education with the Proposed Rules" was distributed to the Board.

Dr. Thompson said staff have concluded public hearings today, and she commended them for their "grace under fire" at the hearings. She said staff stayed at each site until every person who wished to be heard had the opportunity. She said all but one of the hearings was videotaped, that sign language interpreters were available, and that a real time court reporter was utilized to provide closed captioning as the hearings were taking place. She said the Department contracted with Public Sector Consultants, Inc. to ensure that the logistics of the hearings went smoothly. She said the Department has been inundated with e-mails, phone calls, and written comments from concerned citizens as well.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) maintaining a system which addresses the needs of special education children; (2) whether the proposed rule changes implement the policies of the Board; (3) additional public hearings; (4) the effect of the proposed rule changes on services provided to special needs children; (5) student/paraprofessional/student ratios; (6) pre-primary impairment; and (7) Quality Assurance Review.

**Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education recommend to the Superintendent of Public Instruction an extension of the public comment period until July 1, 2001.**

Mrs. Wise stated that even though she supported extending the time frame for public hearings, she would prefer that it not be date certain.

Mr. Warren questioned whether the motion involved policy and also cautioned against making a motion of this type with a date certain, especially when a lawsuit had just been filed.

Mr. Austin said he would support the motion, but suggested that the deadline be set for June 15, 2001, as opposed to July 1, 2001.

Mrs. Gire said the motion included a date certain because there is a concern about the process going on indefinitely, and it gives a clear message that the public's

comments are valued.

Mrs. Straus offered a friendly amendment by adding “in order to provide citizens an opportunity to review, comment, and make recommendations on the proposed special education rule revisions” to the end of the motion.

Mr. Ellis said he just received a Court Order which reads, “It is ordered: (1) Defendant is restrained from closing the period of public comment on the proposed revisions to the administrative rules for special education 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2001 or until further ordered by the court; (2) Defendant is restrained from presenting the proposed rules or comments to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for the same; and (3) Security is not required for issuing this restraining order because a public question is involved.”

There was some discussion regarding the Board’s role as policymakers and if extending the public comment period was an administrative decision.

Mrs. Weiser offered a friendly amendment to remove the date certain.

The friendly amendment was not accepted.

The vote was taken on the motion which reads as follows:

**Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education recommend to the Superintendent of Public Instruction an extension of the public comment period until June 15, 2001 in order to provide citizens an opportunity to review, comment, and make recommendations on the proposed special education rule revisions.**

**Ayes: Austin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus**

**Nays: Warren, Weiser, Wise**

**The motion carried.**

**XVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**

There were no comments made by State Board of Education members.

**XVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Board members were asked to submit agenda items for the May meeting to the Administrative Secretary.

XIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. May 17, 2001
- B. June 12, 2001
- C. July 19, 2001
- D. August 23, 2001

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.  
Secretary